United Nations A/70/720–S/2016/125

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 44
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 5 February 2016, addressed to you from Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

16-01692 (E) 110216

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 21 January 2016 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/70/705-S/2016/64), which yet again contains false assertions similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations" and "violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish once again to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace.

Similarly, the claim in the letter regarding the Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, this claim ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As to the repeated false allegations regarding Ercan Airport in the North, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in North Cyprus have been providing regular, reliable and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island, in line with its isolation policy that has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have taken place with the full knowledge and permission of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Civil Aviation Department, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control.

Moreover, the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriots, which the Greek Cypriot side attempts to perpetuate by encouraging the international community to deem all air and sea ports in Northern Cyprus as "illegal", is in complete contravention to international law, as well as to the call made in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437), in which he clearly states: "I would hope [that the members of the Council] can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984)."

The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety meets all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing safe and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off

from Ercan Airport and using the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre is in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2015 alone, the number of passengers that used Ercan Airport stood at nearly 3,500,000 (compared with 3,250,000 in 2014), while a 7 per cent increase is expected in 2016. Moreover, in 2015, nearly 26,000 planes used Ercan Airport for arrival and departure, and around 210,000 planes used the Ercan advisory airspace, to which a 7 per cent increase is again expected in 2016. In that respect, it must be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Convention on International Civil Aviation, and that it is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

At a time when the comprehensive settlement negotiations are progressing swiftly in a result-oriented atmosphere, I deem it necessary to stress the need to fully channel all our efforts towards achieving a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict, in line with the established United Nations parameters and the Joint Declaration of 11 February 2014, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two constituent States of equal status. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is and has always been the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue such counterproductive and outdated rhetoric, which is not reflective of the joint vision and cooperation expressed by the leaders of both communities on the island since the resumption of the settlement talks in May 2015. As the two future partners in the island of Cyprus, we should never lose sight of the fact that the solution to the Cyprus problem will comprehensively deal with all pending issues between the two sides and thus focus all our efforts towards the ultimate goal of settlement.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that, as the Turkish Cypriot side, we are committed to maintaining our constructive and positive stance within the context of your good offices mission in Cyprus and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations S/2016/126

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to my letter dated 24 December 2015, issued as Security Council document S/2015/1029, I have the honour to enclose herewith a note concerning the allegations contained in the letter dated 29 January 2016 and issued under the symbol S/2016/94.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

16-01772 (E) 120216

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The note entitled "Illegal trading in hydrocarbons by ISIL", annexed to the letter of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, dated 29 January 2016 and distributed under the symbol S/2016/94, constitutes another example of the smear campaign against Turkey.

It is a well-known fact that the largest amount of oil and oil products extracted from areas controlled by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Daesh, is either traded with the Syrian regime or consumed in Syria.

The Syrian regime continues to use electricity and natural gas that are provided by production and transmission facilities under the control of the Daesh/ISIL terrorist group. Further, there is sufficient information which reveals the involvement of persons and companies linked with the Syrian regime and the Russian Federation, financing Daesh/ISIL in exchange for an uninterrupted supply of natural gas from the Jubaissah field and oil from Homs T4 fields. As such, a Syrian businessman, George Haswani, who is known to have ties with the Russian company Stroytransgaz, has been proscribed by the European Union and the United States of America for financing the terrorist activities of Daesh/ISIL.

Those allegations are an attempt to overshadow the fact that the Russian Federation's military operations in Syria target civilians and Syrian people who are fighting Daesh/ISIL, while most of the oil refineries and oil tankers of Daesh/ISIL have been destroyed by the air strikes of the Anti-Daesh Coalition, of which Turkey is an active member. The Russian Federation's claims of hitting Daesh/ISIL oil production facilities have proved to be unfounded, as the targets they claimed as such turned out to be a water distillery (36° 10' 41.1" N, 38° 02' 30.1" E) and wheat storage (35° 47' 55.3" N, 38° 13' 06.6" E) facilities.

Similarly, allegations by the Russian Federation concerning the situation between Turkey's Syrian border at Cilvegözü/Bab al-Hawa and Azaz in Syria are completely misleading and an obvious attempt at disinformation.

It is important to note that only two border gates, Cilvegözü/Bab-al Hawa and Öncüpınar/Bab al-Salam, are operational at the Turkey-Syria border. No vehicle through traffic is allowed on these border crossings. Humanitarian aid is unloaded at the zero-point of the border, goes through a customs check and is picked up by Syrian trucks at the zero-point of the border.

In this regard, between 24 July 2014 and 31 December 2015, 3,979 truckloads of humanitarian assistance from Cilvegözü/Bab al-Hawa and 413 truckloads of humanitarian assistance from Öncüpınar/Bab al-Salam, passed through the trans-shipment zone at the zero-point of the border and were sent into Syria by the United Nations, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015).

Allegations of Turkey's involvement in oil trade with Daesh/ISIL, including through Iraq, are baseless and are mere products of this smear campaign as well.

Turkish companies, subject to false allegations in the said letter, are fully transparent in their business operations. Tüpraş is Turkey's largest industrial

enterprise and controls all of Turkey's refining capacity. Powertrans, which is also mentioned in the letter, is the only Turkish company licensed to transport and trade oil and oil products from and to Iraq by truck. Both the company and the relevant Turkish authorities strictly control the whole process.

There are no middlemen in the oil trade between Turkey and Iraq. The company buys oil directly from the licensed Iraqi authorities at the extraction sites. The oil brought from extraction sites in Iraq is loaded onto the trucks and delivered to discharge terminals in Ceyhan, namely Dörtyol Delta and Toros. Claims that Daesh/ISIL oil is reaching Turkey through Iraq by tanker are completely unfounded. Tanker trucks are followed 24/7 with a vehicle tracking system. That is to say, trucks are allowed to stop only at specific points between the Habur border gate and the discharge terminal. Trucks have to arrive at the discharge terminal in a maximum of 72 hours. Otherwise, the vehicle tracking system sends an alert to the call centre, and the mobile patrol teams, which work 24/7, approach the truck to check if there is any problem. Neither the oil refineries in Batman nor the oil companies listed in the letter have any link to the transport of Daesh/ISIL oil.

Oil produced from a given oil field has a special structure and quality. In other words, every oil field has a kind of DNA. The quality of the oil would change if any other kind of oil were mixed into it. The quality of the product bought by the company is inspected by an independent international private inspection company, upon receipt from Iraq, at the border gates and before loading onto the ships. The quality of oil is stated on the certificate of origin, which is prepared for every consignment. Therefore, it is not possible to mix the oil received from Iraq with the so-called Daesh/ISIL smuggled oil.

Information and figures regarding bilateral trade between Turkey and Iraq can be found in the enclosure.

The claims concerning the İskenderun port area, as well, are outrageous. The legal trade activities, including in oil of the Republic of Turkey, cannot be subjected to such baseless allegations.

Furthermore, in a letter dated 10 December 2015, the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the United Nations requested that Turkey allow exports of oil products from Turkey to Syria for the use of the humanitarian relief agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations registered and allowed to function in Turkey. In fact, Turkey authorized such exports of oil products to United Nations humanitarian relief agencies in June 2015 for a period of six months free of tax.

The alleged routes claimed to be used for Daesh/ISIL oil transport into Turkey pass through areas controlled by different groups, including Daesh/ISIL, the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and the Syrian regime, which implies that they are cooperating with each other, thus revealing the nature of these allegations.

Enclosure

Information and figures regarding bilateral trade between Turkey and Iraq

The figures regarding bilateral trade between Turkey and Iraq since 2011 are provided below.

Bilateral trade between Turkey and Iraq

(Billions of United States dollars)

	2011	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015[a]*
Turkey's exports	8.31	10.82	11.95	10.90	8.07
Turkey's imports	0.87	0.15	0.15	0.27	0.27
Trade volume	9.18	10.97	12.10	11.17	8.34

Source: Turkish Statistical Institute (oil and oil products are not included in the import data).
[a] From January to November.

- Turkey's truck fleet has around 45,000 vehicles.
- The numbers with regard to trucks and tankers that used the Habur border crossing point between Turkey and Iraq in 2015 are provided below. Habur is currently the only functioning border gate between the two countries.

Habur border gate

	Entry			*Exit*			
2015	*Tanker*	*Trucks*	*Total*	*Tanker*	*Trucks*	*Total*	*Average per day*
January	423	61 293	61 716	64	58 492	58 556	4 006
February	262	47 755	48 017	21	47 090	47 111	3 170
March	250	50 055	50 305	89	55 510	55 599	3 530
April	102	54 587	54 689	198	55 338	55 536	3 674
May	11	52 591	52 602	262	56 800	57 062	3 655
June	6	53 600	53 606	283	52 429	52 712	3 525
July	55	48 050	48 105	118	42 303	42 421	3 017
August	16	49 156	49 172	194	53 887	54 081	3 441
September	27	45 141	45 168	44	37 224	37 268	2 747
October	36	55 609	55 645	117	60 400	60 517	3 868
November	74	51 243	51 317	56	54 057	54 113	3 514
December	6	16 915	16 921	15	16 806	16 821	1124
Total	**1 268**	**54 132 395**	**587 263**	**1 461**	**590 336**	**591 797**	**3 273**

The average number of trucks and tankers that used the Habur border gate daily was 3,273 in 2015.

United Nations S/2016/127

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2016

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of Spain on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 18 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations stating that Mr. Jesús Manuel Gracia Aldaz, Vice-Minister for Development and Latin American Affairs, will represent Spain at the 7606th meeting of the Security Council, to be held on 19 January 2016.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

16-01785 (E) 100216

Please recycle